

ROEK, IN HOLLAND.

It is said to be the cleanest town in the world. It is only a few miles from the capital, and has become famous for its cleanliness and its memorial. It is also notable on account of the fanciful style of its streets and yards and gardens and its people, though only peasants, are all to do, and all feel a pride in their town. It seems to be the first town of its kind, where the people of their lives to keep their streets freshly painted, their gardens in order and their yards and streets as clean as a new pin. No carts are allowed in the streets, and no cattle, though the raising of stock and the making of butter and cheese are their occupations, a stranger would never believe that there were any cattle in the region, unless he went to the beautiful green meadows at the back of the town or the stables out there, where the cows are kept in stalls scrubbed and painted like a kitchen.

The streets are too fine and neat for the feet of the animals to step on. All the pavements are polished stone, interspersed with bricks of different colors, and kept so scrupulously clean that a person could walk anywhere in white slippers.—Pearson's Weekly.

Deadly Snakes.

The deadliest of snakes is said to be the cobra, an African cobra. It flies over everybody and everything; it goes from its way to quarrel; it will even come down from a tree to solicit an interview. Over in India there is the King cobra, or hamadryad, a size quite as fierce—it has been known to chase a man on horseback, and to ride for his life—but his cobra is a degree less virulent. The cobra, however, may be considered negligible and ceases to interest the hunter after a few minutes. Among the Australian cobras, the pit vipers of America and the great west African vipers there are species with evil reputations, and the most alarming feature of the aggressive snakes are all separately poisonous.

The Size of Bolivia.

The area of Bolivia is not accurately known, yet it is probable that its present area is not far from 800,000 square miles, which is the equivalent of the area of Germany, France and Spain combined. From the lowlands in the east and southeast the land rises, sometimes by easy slope and sometimes by abrupt uplift to the snow-capped peak of Sorata, with its altitude of near 25,000 feet and to the summit of Illimani, which is given as 22,000 feet in height. La Paz lies at an elevation of 11,000 feet above sea level and Potosi at nearly 14,000 feet. A few miles west of La Paz lies the land sea of Titicaca, at an elevation of 12,000 feet.

His Position in the Matter.

"Gracious!" exclaimed the fond wife, coming in her husband's den and finding him smoking his pipe and reading. This room is thick with smoke. I can't see how you can stand to sit in here."

"You can't?" responded the brutal husband. "Well, I don't stand to sit here; I sit to sit in here. Did you think you had married a freak?"

It is said that this was the first time their married life that she slammed the door on leaving him.

Wit.

Wit, like every other power, has its boundaries. Its success depends on the aptitude of others to receive impressions, and that as some bodies, indissoluble by heat, can set the furnace and crucible at defiance, there are minds upon which the rays of fancy may be pointed without effect and which no fire of sentiment can agitate or exalt. Johnson.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

His Defense of Women as Humorists Goes to Six.

A party of men, among whom was Colonel William Jennings Bryan, were one night waiting for a train in a depot hotel in a small Missouri town. The landlady was the only woman present.

The talk turning upon the alleged inability of women to see the point of a joke as readily as do the men, Mr. Bryan took the ground that a sense of humor was as much a part of the feminine makeup as it was that of man, but that it merely lacked opportunity for development.

"To illustrate," said he, "take the story of the party of excursionists in the Aegean sea. When approaching the Grecian coast the party assembled about the rails to enjoy the beautiful scenery. One lady turned inquiringly to a gentleman at her right and said:

"What is that white off there on the horizon?"

"That is the snow on the mountains," replied the gentleman addressed.

"Well, that's funny," she replied. "My husband said it was grease."

All of the men in the group laughed noisily at Mr. Bryan's story, but the landlady looked puzzled. Finally she said:

"But, Mr. Bryan, how did the grease get on the mountain?"

Mr. Bryan at once dropped the defense of women as born humorists.—Lippincott's Magazine.

An Infallible Sign.

"You left her very abruptly," said one woman.

"Yes," answered the other. "As

A CHESS VILLAGE.

How the Game Became the Ruling Passion of Strobeck.

In a plain of the Harz mountains, a few miles distant from the quaint old town of Halberstadt, Germany, lies the village of Strobeck. The history of Strobeck and its people has for hundreds of years been associated with the game of chess. It is a veritable chess village, says the Royal Magazine, a nursery garden for that ancient game.

From earliest childhood the boys and girls are made familiar with board and men. At school chess is treated as an obligatory subject and is taught systematically. As soon as pupils have mastered the moves and the rules of the game they are encouraged to undertake the solution of chess problems and to invent new ones, just as an English schoolboy is set to making Latin verse.

At Easter there are chess examinations and tournaments among the school children. Three awards of honor of the shape of chessboards bearing the inscription, "The Reward of Industry," are given by the village community. These tournaments are attended by lovers of chess from far and near. During the last half century several chess congresses of wide interest have also been held at Strobeck.

From a very early time the Strobeckers have had the privilege of challenging to a game of chess any prince or nobleman or exalted personage who happens to pass through their village. In the year 1651 the great elector of Brandenburg was challenged in this way and in memory of the event presented to the villagers a carved board and a set of silver chessmen, still preserved.

How chess became the ruling passion of Strobeck has never been ascertained, but the legend most generally believed sets forth that in the eleventh century a famous political prisoner was confined in an ancient tower which still stands in the center of the village. Time hung heavy on his hands, and, being a lover of chess, he begged for a set of men. None was to be had. Then the prisoner carved a set for himself.

But he must have antagonists. One by one his warders learned the game. The peasants of the village were taking turns to guard him. Soon they all knew how to play, and all became enthusiasts.

THE DAIRYMAN

Cream ripening is one of the most important features of buttermaking writes Mrs. E. E. Rockwood in National Stockman. Good butter cannot be made from poor cream, and a great deal of cream is spoiled in the interim between skimming and churning. Cold weather ripening and hot weather ripening are two entirely different propositions. In winter, when bacterial growth is slow, cream must be warmed artificially to induce these organisms to increase sufficiently to ripen it. When the cream turns bitter, yet does not sour, the farmer's wife thinks it very strange, yet the cause is merely the cold weather or the cold atmosphere of the milk room.

The cream should be brought into a warm room and kept at a temperature of 60 to 70 degrees for twenty-four hours before churning, when it will be found at about the right stage of ripening for best and most complete separation. Cream held too long before churning becomes off flavored and bitter for the same reason. It is a mistake to hold it more than three or four days. No matter if the churning is small, keep the regular intervals and do the churning twice a week. The butter will be of finer quality than if it is held longer.

In very cold weather it is sometimes well to use a starter to induce proper ripening. A quart of buttermilk saved each time usually contains sufficient lactic acid to sour the batch of sweet cream nicely, or a glass can may be filled with new milk and allowed to stand in a warm place until sour, this to be used in the same manner. The can must be sterilized with boiling water before filling.

Feeding Color into Butter.

The color of butter is mainly determined by the breed or individuality of the cow, writes W. H. Jordan of the Geneva (N. Y.) experiment station in Rural New Yorker. So far as I have observed, the butter from Guernseys carries the highest natural color, with the Jerseys following as a close second, and the uncolored butter from both of these breeds has a much higher color than that from either the Holsteins or Ayrshires. Feed does have some influence. For instance, the butter fat from the same individual cow carries a higher color when she is on good pasture than when she is eating dry feed in the barn. It is practically impossible, in my judgment, so to feed certain individual cows or the animals of certain breeds as to give their butter fat the depth of yellow color which has come to be regarded as desirable by the American public. In fact, the winter butter from such herds of Holsteins and Ayrshires as I have observed would be practically white, no matter what the feed might be.

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